This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Cancel Claims 1-14.

15. (New) A triterpene saponin prepared by a process for the isolation of triterpene saponins belonging to the family *Myrsinaceae*, wherein said saponin is isolated from the plant species *Maesa balansae*, said process comprising

(a) extracting dried plant parts with an alcohol and concentrating the extract,

(b) removing the apolar fraction from the extract by liquid-liquid extraction with an apolar solvent, and

(c) further purifying the saponin in the alcohol extract by liquid -liquid extraction, filtration and chromatography, wherein the chromatography comprises reversed-phase liquid chromatography with gradient eluent system using

A : 0.5 % ammonium acetate in water

B : methanol

C : acetonitrile

wherein at t = 0, (A:B:C) = (60:20:20) and at t = end, (A:B:C) = (0:50:50), and wherein said saponin has the following characteristics:

Compound 1 : MW = 1532, λ_{max} = 228.6 nm, λ_{max2} = 273.3 nm ;

Compound 2 : MW = 1510, λ_{max} = 223.9 nm, λ_{max2} = 274.5 nm ;

Compound 3 : MW = 1532, λ_{max} = 279.2 nm, λ_{max2} = 223.9 nm ;

Compound 4 : MW = 1510, λ_{max} = 280.4 nm, λ_{max2} = 222.7 nm ;

Compound 5 : MW = 1574, λ_{max} = 276.8 nm, λ_{max2} = 225.0 nm ; or

Compound 6 : MW = 1552, λ_{max} = 279.2 nm, λ_{max2} = 223.9 nm.

16. (New) The triterpene saponin according to claim 15 wherein the alcohol is methanol, ethanol, isopropanol, or butanol, each optionally admixed with water.

17. (New) A process according to claim 15 wherein the saponins of the alcohol extract are further purified by

(c6) extracting the aqueous fraction with butanol saturated with water,

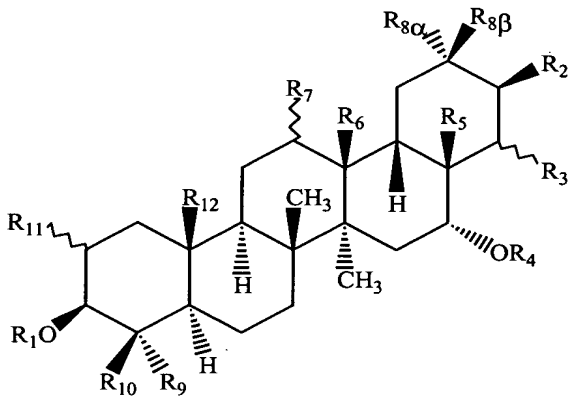
(c7) evaporating the organic layer to dryness,

(c8) washing the residue in a ketone, and

(c9) filtering off the crude saponin mixture.

18. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and as an active ingredient a triterpene saponin according to claim 15.

19. (New) A method of alleviating clinical manifestations of, and treating disorders known as leishmaniases attributable to infection by protozoan parasites of the genus *Leishmania* in both humans and animals, comprising administering to an infected host a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula:



a stereoisomeric form thereof or a pharmaceutically acceptable addition salt thereof, wherein

R_1 is hydrogen, -(C=O)C_{1-5}alkyl, -(C=O)C_{2-5}alkenyl, -(C=O)C_{2-5}alkenyl substituted with phenyl, a monosaccharide group or an oligosaccharide group ;

R_2 is hydrogen, hydroxy, -O(C=O)C_{1-5}alkyl, -O(C=O)C_{2-5}alkenyl, -O(C=O)C_6H_5, or -O(C=O)C_{2-5}alkenyl substituted with phenyl ;

R_3 is hydrogen, hydroxy, -O(C=O)C_{1-5}alkyl, -O(C=O)C_{2-5}alkenyl, -O(C=O)C_6H_5, or -O(C=O)C_{2-5}alkenyl substituted with phenyl ;

R_4 is hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, -(C=O)C_{1-5}alkyl, -(C=O)C_{2-5}alkenyl, -(C=O)C_6H_5, or -(C=O)C_{2-5}alkenyl substituted with phenyl ;

R_5 is CH_3, CH_2OH, CH_2OCH_3, CH_2O-C(=O)CH_3, CHO, or COOH ; or

R_5 and R_2 form a divalent radical of formula -C(=O)-O- ;

R_6 and R_7 are hydrogen; or taken together they form a bond; or

R_5 and R_6 form a divalent radical of formula

-CH_2-O- (a),

-CH(OR_{13})-O- (b), or

-C(=O)-O- (c),

wherein R_{13} is hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl or -(C=O)C_{1-5}alkyl ;

$R_{8\alpha}$ and $R_{8\beta}$ each independently represent CH_3, CH_2OH, CH_2OCH_3,

CH_2O-C(=O) C_{1-5}alkyl, CHO, $CH(OCH_3)_2$, CH=NOH, or COOH ;

$R_{8\beta}$ and R_3 form a divalent radical of formula -C(=O)-O- ;

$R_{8\beta}$ and R_5 form a divalent radical of formula -CH_2O-CHOH- ;

R_9 is CH_3, CH_2OH, CH_2OCH_3, CH_2O-C(=O)C_{1-5}alkyl, CHO, or COOH ;

R_{10} is CH_3, CH_2OH, CH_2OCH_3, CH_2O-C(=O)C_{1-5}alkyl, CHO, or COOH ;

R_{11} is hydrogen, hydroxy or O-C(=O)C_{1-5}alkyl ; or R_{10} and R_{11} form a divalent radical of formula -CH_2O- ; and

R_{12} is CH_3, CH_2OH, CH_2OCH_3, CH_2O-C(=O)CH_3, CHO, CH=NOH, or COOH.

20. (New) The method according to claim 19 wherein

R_1 is hydrogen, -(C=O)C_{1-5}alkyl, or an oligosaccharide group ;

R_3 is hydrogen, hydroxy, -O(C=O)C_{1-5}alkyl, -O(C=O)C_{2-5}alkenyl, or -O(C=O)C_{2-5}alkenyl substituted with phenyl ;

R_4 is hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, -(C=O)C_{1-5}alkyl, or -(C=O)C_{2-5}alkenyl ;

R_5 is CH_2OH, CH_2O-C(=O)CH_3, or CHO ; and

R_6 and R_7 taken together form a bond; or

R_5 and R_6 form a divalent radical of formula

-CH_2-O- (a),

-$CH(OR_{13})$-O- (b), or

-C(=O)-O- (c),

wherein R_{13} is hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl or -(C=O)C_{1-5}alkyl, ; and

R_7 is hydrogen ;

$R_{8\beta}$ represents CH_3, CH_2OH, CHO, $CH(OCH_3)_2$, CH=NOH, or COOH ;

$R_{8\alpha}$ represents CH_3 ;

$R_{8\beta}$ and R_3 form a divalent radical of formula -C(=O)-O- ; or

$R_{8\beta}$ and R_5 form a divalent radical of formula $-CH_2O-CHOH-$;

R_{10} is CH_3, CH_2OH ;

R_{11} is hydrogen, hydroxy or $O-C(=O)C_{1-5}$alkyl ; or

R_{10} and R_{11} form a divalent radical of formula $-CH_2O-$; and

R_{12} is CH_3, CH_2OH, $CH_2O-C(=O)CH_3$, CHO, or CH=NOH.

21. (New) The method according to claim 20 wherein

R_1 is hydrogen or an oligosaccharide group ;

R_2 is hydrogen, hydroxy, $-O(C=O)C_{1-5}$alkyl, $-O(C=O)C_{2-5}$alkenyl, $-O(C=O)C_6H_5$, or $-O(C=O)C_{2-5}$alkenyl substituted with phenyl ;

R_3 is hydrogen, hydroxy, $-O(C=O)C_{1-5}$alkyl, $-O(C=O)C_{2-5}$alkenyl, or $-O(C=O)C_{2-5}$alkenyl substituted with phenyl ;

R_4 is hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, $-(C=O)C_{1-5}$alkyl, $-(C=O)C_{2-5}$alkenyl, or $-(C=O)C_{2-5}$alkenyl substituted with phenyl ;

R_5 is CH_2OH, CH_2OCH_3, $CH_2O-C(=O)CH_3$, CHO, or COOH ; and

R_6 and R_7 taken together form a bond; or

R_5 and R_6 form a divalent radical of formula

$-CH_2-O-$ (a),

$-CH(OR_{13})-O-$ (b), or

-C(=O)-O- (c),

wherein R_{13} is hydrogen ; and

R_7 is hydrogen ;

$R_{8\alpha}$ and $R_{8\beta}$ both represent CH_3 ;

R_9 is CH_3 ;

R_{10} is CH_3 ;

R_{11} is hydrogen ; and

R_{12} is CH_3.